

New roadblocks due for counterfeiters

By Roger Boye

Federal officials likely will begin printing "green-backs" sporting new anti-counterfeiting devices in the next few months, thanks in part to a paper-supply agreement between the government and a Massachusetts company.

Under the \$66.3 million, four-year contract, Crane & Company Inc. of Dalton, Mass., will sell Uncle Sam currency paper bearing a clear polyester thread. The U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing will use the special paper to make Federal Reserve notes, starting with the \$100 and \$50 denominations.

"At last, we have a paper contract," said Johnnie Moore, a bureau spokesman. "This brings us closer [to production], but no date has been set."

The new Federal Reserve notes—which probably will carry series year 1991—will have

microprinting around the center portraits as well as the security thread embedded into the paper, small but important additions that are expected to make U.S. currency more difficult to duplicate accurately on color copiers. Information printed on the threads—such as "USA 50" on \$50 notes—will be visible if a bill is held to light.

Officials had planned to add the new deterrents four years ago, but the threads tended to move during high-speed test printing.

Meanwhile, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing already has made millions of \$1 Federal Reserve notes at its new satellite plant in Fort Worth, and the bills

could begin turning up in circulation by this summer.

The Texas facility—the government's only paper-money plant outside of Washington—produced its first notes several weeks ago and already is performing "beyond expectations," said bureau spokesman Johnnie Moore.

The new bills have yet to be delivered to the Federal Reserve system, which distributes currency to commercial banks. Money printed in Fort Worth will look like bills made in Washington, except that they will carry a small "FW" in the lower right-hand corner of the front side and a slightly enlarged plate number on the back.